

Ipswich Sparrow. At any rate, the matter is worth investigating, and it is hoped that some reader of 'The Auk' may be able to decide the question.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Calamospiza bicolor in Southern California.—About the middle of April of the last spring, I saw an individual (male) of this species within a quarter of a mile of San Diego Bay, singing by the roadside. Early in May they were first observed in large flocks on the mesa within a few miles of the Mexican line, both males and females. At present writing, May 25, they are everywhere abundant on the mesas, and apparently breeding. Mr. L. Belding tells me he has met with the bird in Lower California during his explorations there. I have never met with it before in California, nor have I heard of its occurrence here in past years. Do I record a new area of its distribution?—GODFREY HOLTERHOFF, *National City, Cal.*

Egg of the Cowbird in Nest of the Carolina Dove.—Mr. E. H. King of West Liberty, Iowa, writes me to this effect, adding that the Dove is the largest bird he has known to be chosen as the Cowbird's foster-parent.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Xanthocephalus icterocephalus in Chester County, South Carolina. — Sometime since a friend informed me that there was to be seen in one of the stores of this place a curious and unknown bird, which was exciting considerable comment. In this *rara avis* I expected to find, as has frequently been the case heretofore, the Rose-breasted Song Grosbeak, or some other of the smaller and more brilliantly colored birds, which usually escape general observation. In consequence, I was not a little surprised to find a large Blackbird, with a yellow head, neck, and fore-breast, and a conspicuous white wing-patch, which I recognized at once as the Yellow-headed Swamp Blackbird of the western prairies. The circumstances of the capture are as follows: On the morning of April 17, 1884, a gentleman of the town noticed it in his stable-yard, just back of the principal business street. Here it remained all day, being very tame, and letting him walk up within fifteen or twenty steps, then "running off like a chicken." At night it disappeared, but the next morning, the 18th, it returned and was caught about ten or eleven o'clock in a trap. The presence of this wanderer, in a locality so remote from its usual habitat, is not improbably due to the heavy southwest gales we had been having for some time back.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

The Turkey Buzzard in Western New York.—A Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) was shot at Kendall Mills, ten miles northwest of this town, May 23, 1884, by a farmer named George Hoffman. He saw the bird sitting on the top of a dead tree near where he was at work, and by a well-directed shot with his rifle brought it to the ground. The bird was purchased by Mr. D. T. Bruce, a taxidermist of Brockport, and is now in his collection. The specimen was recorded by Mr. Bruce in the 'Brockport Republic' of May 29, 1884; but the occurrence seems worthy of a more accessible and permanent record.—J. T. FRASER, *Brockport, N. Y.*

Occurrence of the Least Tern at San Diego, Cal.—Quite a number of individuals of this species were shot in the summer of 1883, on the peninsula enclosing San Diego Bay. My own record of the birds is for the months of June and July, but others were reported in August and September. None have been seen this year up to date (May 25), and I am inclined to think their occurrence very unusual. I have never heard of them before on this southern coast.—GODFREY HOLTERHOFF, *National City, Cal.*

Wilson's Petrel in Western New York.—In my report to Dr. A. K. Fisher of the birds that occur in this vicinity, I mentioned among the Accidental Visitants a 'Stormy Petrel,' and gave him the particulars of its capture. He asked me to report it to 'The Auk'. The specimen is in my collection, and was taken by Mr. J. A. Newton of this city in Oct., 1875, while shooting Golden Plover in a field just outside the city limits. On examining it I find it is a Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanica*) instead of Stormy Petrel as reported. It was presented to the Jewett Scientific Society and lately came into my possession.—J. L. DAVISON, *Lockport, N. Y.*

New Brunswick Winter Notes.—Birds were particularly abundant during the winter that has just passed, especially through the earlier months, but they were not of the species generally common here at that season. The scarcity of Owls and Hawks was a marked feature, as was also the comparatively rare occurrence of the Crossbills, the Chickadees, the Snow Bunting, the Tree Sparrow, and the Redpoll. Pine Grosbeaks were numerous, and I thought some of the adult males were more brilliantly colored than any I had met before. They are always rather fearless of man, but the flock that wintered near St. John last winter seemed conspicuously so. I came upon a number feeding on the ground, and as I walked through their midst they barely moved out of my way, going off two or three yards, and when I stood, coming back to within arm's reach. One audacious fellow actually hopped between my legs, coolly pecking as he went.

The Red-bellied Nuthatch and the Golden-crowned Kinglet were reported very abundant in some localities. One trustworthy correspondent writes: "Observing a throng of birds in a grove, I went to the edge, and gave a shrill whistle, when they flocked around me. I counted over forty, mostly Nuthatches."

But the winter will be chiefly remembered by our naturalists as the season when the Bohemian Waxwing was first seen by the rising generation of observers; when several individuals of the Brown Creeper, the Thistle Bird, the Purple Finch, and the Cedar Bird were taken near St. John in January and February, and when large numbers of Crows and Robins spent the entire season in the Province.

It was not a 'mild' winter either, for though during a part of February the temperature was higher than that month generally brings us, the weather of the most of January was far from 'mild'—the thermometer